

R 181506Z DEC 90  
FM AMEMBASSY MOGADISHU  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1207  
INFO RUEHEG/AMEMBASSY CAIRO  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY ROME  
USIA WASHDC 7929

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 MOGADISHU 11003

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR  
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SUBJECT: DISCUSSION WITH MANIFESTO SIGNERS

11. CONFIDENTIAL - ENTIRE TEXT.

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12. ON DECEMBER 17, DCM HOSTED A LUNCHEON FOR SEVERAL SIGNERS OF THE MAY MANIFESTO. THEY ARE: GENERAL ABDULAHI MOHAMED HASSAN, FORMER COMMANDER OF THE SOMALI POLICE AND A MAJERTAIN (BIO DETAILS FOLLOW SEPTTEL); MOHAMOUD SALAH NOOR, ADOLBAHANTE AND FORMER LABOR OFFICIAL; ABDULAZIZ NOOR HERSI, A LAWYER AND MEMBER OF THE MAJERTAIN CLAN, AND MOHAMED GIAMA, A MAJERTAIN AND FORMER AMBASSADOR TO THE EC AND FORMER MINISTER OF COMMERCE. ALSO PRESENT WERE OSMAN SAMANTAR, A PROMINENT MAJERTAIN BUSINESSMAN, AMBASSADOR BISHOP AND POLOFF.

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13. PEACEFUL RECONCILIATION. THE GUESTS WERE DISCOURAGED BY THE POSTPONEMENT OF THE CAIRO ROUND TABLE TALKS, AND BLAMED IT ON THE GSDR FOR HAVING ISSUED A STRICT NEW SECURITY DECREE AND HAVING ARRESTED SEVERAL MANIFESTO SIGNERS (NOTE. AMBASSADOR GIAMA WAS ONE OF THREE MANIFESTO SIGNERS DETAINED FOR APPROXIMATELY TWO DAYS DURING THE VIOLENCE IN MOGADISHU TWO WEEKS AGO). ALTHOUGH THOSE DETAINED WERE NOW FREE, THE GROUP MADE CLEAR THAT DIALOGUE WITH THE GSDR WOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE SO LONG AS THE SECURITY DECREE IS IN FORCE. MOREOVER, THEY SAID, THEY HAD RECEIVED NO INDICATION THAT CHARGES AGAINST THE DETAINEES HAD BEEN DROPPED.

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14. THE MANIFESTO GROUP HAD BELIEVED THE NEW CONSTITUTION TO BE A STEP FORWARD; BUT NOW, THEY SAID, PRESIDENT SIAD HAD BLOCKED THE PATH OF PEACEFUL RECONCILIATION, LEAVING ONLY VIOLENCE AS A MEANS OF RESOLVING SOMALIA'S CRISIS. NEVERTHELESS, THEY STILL BELIEVE STRONGLY THAT A PEACEFUL, NEGOTIATED SOLUTION IS NECESSARY.

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15. ROLE OF THE U.S. THE GROUP EXPRESSED THANKS FOR THE USG HAVING CUT AID TO THE GSDR. BY CONTRAST, THEY CRITICIZED THE GULF STATES AND ITALY FOR THEIR CONTINUED AID TO THE SIAD GOVERNMENT. THEY ASKED THE U.S. TO PERSUADE THE GULF STATES NOT TO AID THE GSDR, AT LEAST NOT BY GIVING CASH, WHICH IS USED ONLY FOR WEAPONS PURCHASES AND PERSONAL ENRICHMENT. THE AMBASSADOR EXPLAINED THE LOGIC BEHIND THE GULF STATES AIDING THOSE GOVERNMENTS THAT SUPPORT THE POSITION OF THE UNITED NATIONS AND THAT HAVE BEEN HURT ECONOMICALLY BY THE GULF CRISIS. HE ALSO POINTED OUT THAT THE GULF STATES ANNOUNCED THEIR USD 70 MILLION AID FOR SOMALIA AT A TIME WHEN CONSTITUTIONAL REFORM LOOKED MORE PROMISING THAN IT DOES NOW.

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16. THE GUESTS ALSO ASKED THE U.S. TO CONTINUE TO PERSUADE BOTH THE GSDR AND THE VARIOUS OPPOSITION GROUPS TO NEGOTIATE WITH ONE ANOTHER. MOHAMOUD SALAH NOOR DISAGREED WITH THE AMBASSADOR'S REMARK THAT U.S. INFLUENCE WITH THE GSDR WAS NOW

LIMITED PRECISELY BECAUSE WE HAD SLASHED AID. NOOR MAINTAINED THAT THE OPPOSITE WAS TRUE: WITHOUT U.S. AID, SIAD'S POSITION WAS MORE DESPERATE THAN EVER. HE WOULD THUS BE WILLING TO DO ALMOST ANYTHING TO GET THE MONEY FLOWING AGAIN.

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¶17. FEDERALISM AND SOMALIA. THE GUESTS ALL SEEMED TO HAVE READ DAS HICKS' SPEECH ON FEDERALISM AND THE HORN OF AFRICA (USIS HAS DISTRIBUTED MORE THAN 100 COPIES, AND CONTINUES TO RECEIVE REQUESTS FOR MORE). DESPITE ARGUMENT TO THE CONTRARY, ALL SOMALIS PRESENT SEEMED TO EQUATE FEDERALISM WITH PARTITION, WHICH THEY DO NOT WANT FOR SOMALIA. ONE PARTICIPANT MAINTAINED THAT A FEDERAL SYSTEM WOULD INVITE THE SNM AND OTHERS BENT ON SECESSION TO DESTROY THE UNITY OF SOMALIA.

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¶18. THE MILITARY SITUATION. SAMANTAR, WHO IS A CLANSMAN AND CLOSE FRIEND OF GENERAL MORGAN, CLAIMED THAT THE GENERAL HAD LEFT MOGADISHU FOR THE CENTRAL REGIONS ON DECEMBER 16, ACCOMPANYING TWO CONTAINERS FILLED WITH SOMALI SHILLINGS (SOSH). THE MONEY, ACCORDING TO SAMANTAR, WOULD BE DISHED OUT 100,000 SOSH PER DEAD BODY, TO THOSE WHO KILLED THE ENEMY. SAMANTAR SAID MORGAN HAD ONLY 1,000 POORLY-TRAINED RECRUITS AT HIS COMMAND FOR HIS CENTRAL REGION OFFENSIVE. MOST OF THEM ARE OGADENI, HOT TO REVENGE HAWIYE ATTACKS ON THEIR REFUGEE CAMPS IN THE CENTRAL REGION.

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¶19. SAMANTAR ALSO CLAIMED THAT GENERAL MORGAN WOULD SOON TRAVEL TO CAIRO, AND THAT THE ROUND TABLE TALKS WOULD BE RESCHEDULED FOR MID-JANUARY.

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¶10. COMMENT. LATER THE SAME DAY, THE EGYPTIAN AMBASSADOR TOLD AMBASSADOR BISHOP THAT THE GOE WOULD SOON LAUNCH A UNILATERAL PEACE INITIATIVE, CONSISTING OF INVITING THE VARIOUS PARTIES OF THE SOMALI CONFLICT ONE-BY-ONE TO CAIRO FOR DISCUSSIONS. IT IS POSSIBLE THAT MORGAN'S VISIT TO CAIRO WILL FALL WITHIN THIS FRAMEWORK. ON THE OTHER HAND, HE MIGHT SIMPLY INTEND TO ASK FOR ARMS.

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¶11. WE HAVE BEEN RECEIVING CONFLICTING INFORMATION ON THE PROGRESS OF GENERAL MORGAN'S OFFENSIVE, ALTHOUGH NONE OF IT POINTS TO SUCCESS. NUMEROUS SOMALI ARMY CASUALTIES HAVE BEEN FLOWING BACK INTO MOGADISHU AND THERE ARE REPORTS OF RENEWED FIGHTING NEAR JOHAR AND MAHADE WEYNE, ABOUT 100 KM FROM THE CAPITAL.

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¶12. THE GROUP'S RESPONSE TO DAS HICKS' SPEECH IS TYPICAL OF THOSE WE HAVE RECEIVED SO FAR: PLEASURE THAT SOMEONE IS GIVING SERIOUS THOUGHT TO THE HORN AND ITS PROBLEMS, GREAT INTEREST IN THE SPEECH, BUT STRONG RESISTANCE TO THE IDEA OF FEDERALISM FOR THIS COUNTRY. END COMMENT.

BISHOP